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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT The City of Vidin

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REFERENCES

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. Vidin (N 43-59, E 22-53) has a population of approximately 20,000. Although the city was long considered an okrüg center, all okrüg institutions for its area are now located at Vratsa (N 43-12, E 23-33).
2. The regular Army strength at Vidin is one Border Guard unit and one infantry unit.
3. Since 1951, a railroad ferry with five or six pairs of rails and capable of holding 48 cars has crossed three or four times daily from Vidin to Calafat, Rumania. The cars contain mainly foodstuffs, industrial supplies, tobacco, and earthenware.
4. The Machine Tractor Station at Vidin, formerly located near the port area, has been moved outside the city limits. The station supplies the entire area with tractors and other agricultural machinery.
5. the following factories at Vidin:
 - a. The earthenware factory, located approximately 200 meters from the railroad station, engaged principally with export orders; it employs 400 workers;
 - b. The tobacco and cigarette factory, located 200 meters north of the earthenware factory, makes "Arda," the most popular Bulgarian cigarette, and good quality tobacco and cigarettes for export; it employs about 300 workers;
 - c. The canned foods factory (Konservniy Zavod), located approximately 50 meters from the earthenware factory, engaged principally with export orders; it employs 1,000 workers in the summer and 300 in the winter; and
 - d. The Stalin Machine Factory, located near the earthenware factory, employs approximately 300 workers.
6. New industrial enterprises are to be built in the area of the factories listed above, and workers have razed entire streets of houses and are removing the wreckage.

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7. The power station is opposite the port area, adjacent to the cigarette and tobacco factory. It cannot produce enough power for local use, so additional power is obtained from the new station at Mezdra (N 43-08, E 23-41).

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